THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a), (b) and (e) In order to make the Government more transparent and accountable to the public, a Bill to enact the 'Freedom of Information Act' was introduced by the Government in the Lok Sabha on 25th July, 2000. The Bill provides that the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923, and every other Act in force shall cease to be operative to the extent to which they are inconsistent with the provisions of the proposed Act.

(c) and (d) The Freedom of Information Bill, 2000, as introduced and pending in the Lok Sabha, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination. The Committee has since presented its report to both the Houses of Parliament on 25th July, 2001. In this Report, the Committee has expressed the opinion that anti-insurgency operations and intelligence activities of CRPF, BSF and ITBP should also be brought under the purview of information exempted from disclosure under the proposed Act.

Status of Council for Clean India

4240. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Clean India formed by Central Vigilance Commission of India has the approval of Government;

(b) what is the constitution of the Council and its powers and responsibilities; and

(c) whether it is a quasi-judicial authority or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) , it has set up a virtual organization, named as, Council for a Clean India (CFCI). The Commission have no intention of making it into a registered or a corporate body. Instead, in the website of the CVC, the names of all the participants of CFCI would be included. The Government, however, has not received any formal proposal from the Commission in this regard.

It is a forum which brings for the first time the officials/agencies concerned with fighting corruption like CVC, CBI, Vigilance Commissioners, Ombudsmen in the Banking and Insurance Sector along with NGOs fighting corruption as well as eminent people concerned with fighting corruption. CFCI is a virtual organization, not formally registered with any agency, it does not have the status of a quasi-judicial authority.

Cases investigated by CBI in Goa

4241. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases that have been/are being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation in Goa since the setting up of the CBI office in the State; and

(b) the number of staff currently employed in the Goa office, with designations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a total number of 43 cases have been/are being investigated/enquired by the CBI since the setting up of its office in the State of Goa and upto 30-06-2001.

(b) According to the CBI, a total number of 16 persons as detailed below, are currently employed in the Goa Office of CBI :—

Number of Staff	Designation
1	Superintendent of Police
1	Deputy Superintendent of Police
3	Inspectors
1	Head Constable
4	Constables
2	Lower Division Clerk
2	Senior Clerk Steno
1	Senior Public Prosecutor
1	Asstt. Public Prosecutor
TOTAL 16	